

Appl. No. 10/814,086  
Amdt. Dated August 10, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of May 10, 2005

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**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A locking device for vertical connection of an upper connection component, that comprises an upper engaging section, to a lower connection component, that comprises a lower engaging section, said upper connection component and said lower connection component being spaced apart by a substantially nonadjustable, fixed distance, the locking device comprising at least two shell segments (1) each of which only partially extends that reach, at least in part, around opposite vertical sides of the connection from the outside and in horizontal direction, with the shell segments (1) comprising an upper and a lower edge (5, 6) adjacent to each of which an upper and a lower engaging section (7, 8) facing the connection is provided so that, should the connection of the two connection components come apart, the upper engaging section (7) of the shell segments (1) is supported against the upper engaging section provided at the upper connection component, while the lower engaging section (8) of the shell segments (1) holds the lower engaging section (13, 14) of the lower connection component.

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Claim 2 (Previously presented): A locking device according to Claim 1, further comprising an upper and a lower washer (9) each being assembled of at least first and second washer segments (11, 12), the washers (9) being configured so that each can be pushed onto the connection from the outside and in horizontal direction, whereby, when installed, the upper washer (9) is fixed to the upper connection component and the lower washer (29) to the lower connection component, whereby the upper and lower engaging sections (13, 14) are each formed on the respective washer segments (11, 12).

Claim 3 (Previously presented): A locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the shell segments (1) are connected to each other in an installed state.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): A locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the engaging ~~section~~ sections (7, 8) of ~~the~~ each shell segment (1) is are each formed by a projection that is bent from the upper or lower edge (5, 6) at an essentially right angle.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): A locking device according to Claim 2, wherein the engaging section (13, 14) of ~~the upper or lower connection component or~~ each washer segment (11, 12) is formed by a projection protruding from the outer perimeter of said washer segment.

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Claim 6 (Previously presented): A locking device according to Claim 5, wherein the projection protruding from the outer perimeter is stepped.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A locking device according to Claim 1, wherein the engaging section sections (7, 8) of the each shell segment (1) ~~extends~~ extend along the entire upper or lower edge (5, 6).

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A locking device according to Claim 2, 5, wherein the engaging section (13, 14) of ~~the upper or lower connection component or~~ each washer segment (11, 12) extends along the entire outer perimeter.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): A locking device for a pivot connection of a ceiling-mounted medical supply unit according to Claim 1.